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FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department

United States of America

In the matter of the failure of the Japanese to furnish proper food, quarters, and medical care to American prisoners of war at Woosung, China, between 1 February 1942 and March 1943.

Perpetuation of testimony of Sgt. Roger Dick Bamford, 1622 Avenue B. Kearney, Nebraska, Serial No. 306927.

Taken at: Kearney, Nebraska

Date: 15 February 1946

In the presence of: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr

Reporter: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr

Questions by: Charles H. Phares, S/Agt, SIC. 7SC, Omaha, Nebr

Q: State your name, rank, Marine Corps Serial Number and permanent home address.

A: I am Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt, Serial No. 306927. My home address is 1622 Avenue B, Kearney, Nebraska.

Q: State your citizenship and the date and place of your birth.

A: I am a citizen of the United States and was born at Elm Creek, Nebraska, on November 6, 1922.

Q: What education have you had?

A: I was graduated from highschool at Kearney, Nebraska.

Q: Did you have a civilian occupation?

A: No. I went from highschool to the Marine Corps.

Q: Where were you stationed? What were your military duties?

A: I was attached to an anti-aircraft unit stationed on Wake Island when the war between Japan and the United States broke out on 7 December 1941.

Q: Were you a prisoner of war?

A: Yes. I was captured at Wake Island on 23 December 1941. I was transferred soon to Woosung Prison Camp at Woosung, China where I was held until March 1943. I was then transferred to a prison camp at Kangwan, China where I was held from March 1943 until June 1945. We were then transferred to a prison camp at Fengtia, China, where we were held from 1 June to 1 July 1945. The last prison camp I was in was located at Hokodate, Hokaido, Japan where I was held from 1 July 1945 to about 15 August 1945 when I was released by American Forces. I was returned to the United States soon after being released.

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Q: Do you recall the food issued by the Japanese to the American prisoners of war at Woosung Prison Camp between 1 February 1942 and March 1943?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: State what you recall concerning the food issued to the American prisoners of war.

A: We were issued a small tencup full of cooked rice three times a day. Ordinarily we received a little watery turnip soup twice a day or some soup of a similar nature. We were never issued meat and we could get no other food. We received no Red Cross parcels at that camp.

Q: Do you recall the quarters in which prisoners were kept?

A: I do.

Q: State what you recall concerning the quarters.

A: We were sheltered in barns and slept on the ground. There were cracks in the walls of the barn through which cold air passed freely.

Q: Did you have stoves and fuel furnished in these quarters?

A: No, we did not.

Q: What sort of weather prevailed in this area during the winter months?

A: Temperatures got as low as fifteen and twenty degrees above zero and we had snowfalls. The weather was ordinarily damp. We were never able to be really warm. Two blankets were issued to each man as bedding.

Q: Were clothes issued to you?

A: The Japanese issued no clothing and some of the prisoners had no clothing at all when they arrived at Woosung because the Japanese had made them strip when they left Wake Island. Some had a pair of pants; others a shirt, but that clothing lasted only about three months.

Q: Did you have any facilities for bathing?

A: We washed ourselves in buckets but for the first three months I was at Woosung I did not have a bath. The Japanese furnished no soap. We never did wash our clothes because we felt they would fall apart if they were washed.

Q: Did the Japanese furnish medical care for the American prisoners?

A: The Japanese furnished no medical care and while we were at that camp approximately thirty or forty prisoners died due to malnutrition, beri-beri, and dysentery.

Q: Did you have a Doctor among the American prisoners?

A: Lt (j.g.) Kahn, USN, Ft Worth, Texas, was in this camp and did what he could for us.

Q: What sort of latrine facilities did you have?

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- A: We had one latrine built to accommodate four men but there were approximately fifteen hundred men at the camp so that latrine was very inadequate for our needs. The Japanese furnished no disinfectants for keeping the latrine clean.
- Q: Who was the Japanese Commander at Moosung Prison Camp?
- A: The first Commanding Officer was a Col. Use but he died while we were there and was replaced by a Captain Indo.
- Q: Who was the ranking American officer?
- A: He was Colonel Ashurst, USMC. Other officers present were Major Brown, who had been stationed at Peking; Major Devereaux, who had been stationed at Wake Island and Commander Thison, a Doctor.
- Q: Were protests lodged with the Japanese commander regarding conditions which you have described?
- A: Yes, but the protests did no good.
- Q: Do you remember the names of any of the Enlisted Men who were at this camp with you?
- A: A Sergeant Marion L. Wyne of 4475 Saratoga Avenue, San Diego, California, and Sgt. Fred Beese, Modale, Iowa were in this camp with me.
- Q: Do you have anything further to add to the above?
- A: No.
- Q: Do you have any knowledge of other mistreatment of American prisoners of war by the Japanese?
- A: Only what I have given you in sworn statement above.

/s/ Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt.

USMC

ROGER DICK BAMFORD, Sgt, USMC

STATE OF NEBRASKA)

(SS

COUNTY OF BUFFALO)

I, Roger Dick Bamford, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Roger Dick Bamford, Sgt. USMC

ROGER DICK BAMFORD, Sgt. USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of March 1946.

/s/ Irene Tauson

Co. Clerk, Buffalo Co.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Charles H. Phares, Special Agent, SIC, 7SC, certify that Roger Dick Bamford personally appeared before me on 15 February 1946 and testified concerning War Crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

/s/ Chas. H. Phares

CHAS H. PHARES, S/Agt, SIC, 7SC.

Omaha, Nebraska
Mar. 5, 1946

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Doc 8004 B

Doc

QX/III

No. 1

同姓有階級海軍隊認識番号、及原籍、述言
 答、私、口辛言、いふ、軍曹 認識番号、
 東京、大正、三、原籍、不、いふ、市、行
 一六二番地

問、ア、只、戦争、停、場、多、カ

答、イ、私、一九四一年、昭和十六年、十二月、五日、イ、島
 中捕へ、え、カ、私、同、モ、中国、受、収、吳、松、停、場、牧
 容所、へ、移、カ、ト、三、九、四、三、年、(昭和十八年)、三月、迄、抑、留、サ
 レ、タ、カ、

問、ア、タ、ハ、一九四二年、(昭和十七年)、三月、一日、カ、ラ、翌、年、三月、迄
 吳、松、停、場、牧、容、所、米、国、人、停、留、場、日、本、人、に、給、シ
 タ、食、物、ハ、ド、シ、モ、イ、タ、ク、思、ヒ、出、セ、ル、カ

答、一、日、三、回、小、サ、茶、碗、二、食、一、杯、也、其、に、マ、タ、通、例、一、日、三、回、少
 シ、水、氣、ハ、エ、ル、カ、ラ、ウ、味、噌、汁、カ、同、シ、類、ト、種、類、味、噌
 汁、ヲ、貰、ヒ、マ、タ、肉、ハ、絶、對、ニ、無、ク、其、他、ノ、食、物、モ、貰、ヘ、マ、セ、
 デ、タ、カ、此、牧、容、所、サ、ハ、米、十、字、小、包、ハ、貰、ヘ、マ、セ、デ、タ、カ、

問、停、場、牧、容、サ、シ、タ、場、所、ハ、ド、シ、タ、ク、思、ヒ、出、セ、ル、カ

答、我、々、ハ、納、屋、下、起、居、シ、地、面、ヲ、寝、マ、タ、カ、納、屋、壁、ニ、割、

~~8004~~

8004

目がもうシカク寒く気が吹くと言ふ事だ。

Doc.

問 ソノ場所ニハストーブや薪炭、設備ハアリカ。

答 イエ、ソノ設備ハアリマシタ。

問 ソノ地方ノ冬ノ氣候ハ如何ナリカ。

答 温度ハ十五度乃至廿度位で雪が降りマシタ。氣候ハ湿り勝テタ。真ニ暖クナリ得タコトハナリ。

一人宛ニ被ノ毛布が暖具トシテ給與サレタ。

問 衣類ハ給与サレタカ。

答 日本人ハ衣類ヲ給与シタカ。或ハ保屬ハ「ラエウ」島ヲ往ル時衣類ヲ日本人ニ脱ガセタ爲メ、呉松ニ着イタ所ハ裸ノモアリタ。バツニ被又ケノ着モアルシヤツ又モ、モアリタ。ソノ衣類(精々三ヶ月仕シカ持チヌデシタ。

問 入浴ノ設備ハ如何ナリカ。

答 皆馬穴ヲ身体ヲ洗ツタガ呉松ニ居タ最初ノ三ヶ月

間一度モ風呂ニ達シヌデシタ。日本人ハ石鑪ヲ使シ

マセシタ。皆木ヲ着物ヲ洗ハタカ。

No. 2

洗ハバ破ルト思フタカラズ

✕

8004 問 米国人俘虜ニ対シテ医療設備ハアリヤ

答 医療設備ハ全然アリマシタ。我々が此ノ收容

所ニ居ル間ニ約三四人ノ俘虜ガ栄養失調脚

氣、赤痢ナドヲ患ヒマシタ

問 米国人俘虜ノ中ニ医者が居タカ

答 子タス州、ポートランド市、カニ海軍少尉此收容

所ニ居リ我々ノ爲メ出来ル文々、フツツシク書シマシタ。

問 便所ノ設備ハどうダカ

答 四人用ノ便所サツアツキリデ、ソノ收容所ニハ約五

百人ニ居リマシタカ、便所ハ我々ノ需要ニ対シ非常

ニ不足デシタ。日本人ハ便所ヲ清潔ニスルタメノ消毒剤ヲ

使ヒマシデシタ。

問 アタクシ道ベタノ様ナ状態ニ対シテ俘虜收容所長

ニ抗議ヲ申込マスカカ

答 ハイ抗議シタガ、効果ハアリマシデシタ

8003